

OBITUARY

Richard C. Froeschner
(1916–2002):
Biographical Sketch, Described Taxa, and Publications



Richard C. Froeschner, circa 1985



Fig. 1. A round "tuit."

The passing of Dr. Richard C. Froeschner on May 2, 2002, brings to a close the long career of an eminent scientist devoted to entomology and helping others. Dick, as his friends called him, was a kind, gentle, shy man. Dick rarely gave advice, but he was a good listener who had an ability to let a person talk out loud and reach his own, but guided, conclusions. Those who knew Dick appreciated his friendship and subtle humor. One of his most famous lines was that he would finish a project when he got "around to it." Those closest to him knew that he would next pull from his desk drawer a "round tuit" (Fig. 1), which always received much-anticipated laughter. In keeping with his good cheer, he frequently complimented friends with a "Good job 99," a phrase borrowed from the old *Get Smart* television series.

Dick went out of his way to help others, particularly students and lay people, either by furnishing identifications or by explaining problems relating to household insects or to natural history in general. He was patient and kind to students, particularly when he saw exceptional potential. On occasion, Dick would include students as coauthors to stimulate and help teach them the details of publishing scientific papers. One recent

visitor recalled with great admiration the gift of reprints and books Dick sent to him as a result of a much smaller request for a few key papers. This was typical of Dick when he saw a need.

During his many years at the Smithsonian, he was quoted regularly in newspapers and appeared on radio and television for the local as well as the foreign media. Although a heteropterist by profession, Dick was knowledgeable on a wide array of other insect groups. He was the resident cicada expert and regularly answered inquiries on the emergence of the various broods all over the country. He also published on other orders, including Coleoptera (Languriidae and Erotylidae), Neuroptera, and Orthoptera (his Master's thesis treated the Orthoptera of Iowa).

Dick was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 8, 1916, to immigrant German parents. At an early age the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he attended elementary, junior high, and high school. During these formative years, he became intrigued with natural history. As a young boy, he enjoyed the powerful synergistic force of three, close, nature-loving brothers, who surely were a major stimulation in his development. From early collections of insects attracted to kerosene lamps, through the years of the "Froeschner Nature Club," and on to more sophisticated collecting techniques, Dick showed a strong interest in entomology. Several of his high school teachers, particularly Ms. Mary McCarty, saw his potential and provided assistance that allowed him to attend the University of Missouri in pursuit of his B.S., received in 1941. During these years, he worked at the Missouri Department of Agriculture on Japanese beetle surveys in the St. Louis area (1938–1940) and as a Taxonomic Entomologist at Jefferson City (1940–1941).

Early in his undergraduate days, he met University of Missouri Scientific Illustrator, Elsie M. L. Herbold, who soon became his companion and strongest supporter. On Oc-

tober 6, 1940, they were married and began a long and devoted relationship, combining Dick's scientific passion with Elsie's enviable artistic skills, that was to span more than 61 years.

From 1941 to 1945 he was variously employed as assistant state entomologist, nursery inspector, and state representative on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *Parlatoria* Scale Insect Project. In 1945 he joined the Army, serving two years in various capacities from Entomology Technician working on mosquito and malaria control to Chief Ward Master at the MacDill Air Force Base Hospital, near Tampa, Florida. After the Service, from 1946 to 1948, he served as Chief Curator and Acting Director of the Museum of Science and Technology at the St. Louis Academy of Sciences.

Dick received his M.S. from Iowa State College in 1951. During his Master's work on the "Orthoptera of Iowa," he was employed as an instructor from 1948 to 1949 and as an assistant professor during 1949–1954. He worked as a nursery inspector for the Iowa State Entomologist during the summers, gaining considerable practical experience.

Dick continued on to pursue his Ph.D. under Dr. Harry H. Knight, world renowned mirid specialist. It was during these years that he joined a group of graduate students who went on to become prominent heteropterists. He became life-long friends with well-known colleagues José C. M. Carvalho, Leonard A. Kelton, Joseph C. Schaffner, and James A. Slater. Not far behind the graduates students were the undergraduates John D. Latin and John T. Polhemus. These must have been grand days at Iowa State College, which also boasted two other well-known hemipterists on the faculty, Drs. Carl J. Drake and Halbert M. Harris.

Upon completion of his doctorate, he joined the staff at Montana State College, Bozeman, as an assistant professor from 1954 to 1956 and associate professor from 1956 to 1960. In 1958, he received the

school's Alumni and Student Council "Distinguished Teaching Award."

Despite his success and devotion to teaching, Dick's true love was research. In 1960, he accepted a research entomologist position with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Disappointed with the heavy identification responsibilities that came with the position, he returned to Montana as an associate professor at the University of Montana, Missoula.

In 1963, Dr. J. E. Gates Clark, then chairman of the Department of Entomology at the United States National Museum (USNM), offered Dick a research entomologist position at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Without hesitation, Dick and family again pulled up roots and returned to the East. He devoted the remainder of his life researching Heteroptera at the USNM (now the National Museum of Natural History—NMNH), helping to build one of the world's largest and best-curated Heteroptera collections. Dick retired in 1995 at the age of 79. He continued driving into the museum from Falls Church, Virginia, on a regular basis until December 12, 2001, when poor health forced him to stay home. He passed away five months later.

Dick's contributions to entomology are numerous. His early teaching stimulated many students to go on to successful careers, but it is his research contributions that will have the longest influence. Dick's five-part series on the "Hemiptera of Missouri" is still remarkably useful after more than 40 years. The series contains identification keys and biological notes for all true bugs known from that state and is profusely illustrated by his talented wife, Elsie. It remains one of the most frequently cited treatises on North America Heteroptera. His 1960 monograph of the "Cydnidae of the Western Hemisphere" is perhaps his most outstanding, purely scientific, contribution. This masterful work puts the cydnids in phylogenetic context for the first time and

provides revisions and keys to all known New World genera and species. Another major contribution is the 1988 *Catalog of the Heteroptera, or True Bugs, of Canada and the Continental United States*. As co-editor, Dick wrote large portions of the catalog introduction and authored 20 of the 45 family chapters, including the large families Coreidae, Pentatomidae, and Reduviidae. This major accomplishment was the first summation of the North America literature in more than 70 years. His "Heteroptera of Ecuador" (1981) and "Synopsis of the Heteroptera of the Galapagos Islands" (1985) have proved to be two of the most useful treatments of South American bugs ever published. The extensive literature reviews provided citations for original descriptions, revisions, and identification keys. He continued with this theme throughout his career, working on synopses and annotated lists for many Neotropical countries. Unfortunately, most remain incomplete. In 1999, however, he published an outstanding compilation of the amazingly rich fauna of Panama in his "True bugs of Panama" that included information on 51 families, 585 genera, and 1,330 species. Dick had nearly completed of the non-mirid Heteroptera for Chile, when declining health stopped progress on this monumental synopsis.

As Gary Hevel (2002, *Ent News, Systematic Biology—Entomology Newsletter*, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History 16: 2–3) so nicely said, "Friends and colleagues will long remember this man of wisdom, humor, and devotion to his chosen field." During his career, Dick Froeschner published 131 entomological papers, mostly on Heteroptera, and treated taxa in 10 families and two suborders, describing new to science two subfamilies, eight genera, and 111 species.

Dick is survived by his wife Elsie; two daughters, Kay and Ellen; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. To learn more details about Dr. Richard C. Froeschner's life, I refer readers to the 1986 Festschrift [T. J. Henry and A. G. Wheeler, Jr.

(eds.), *Journal of the New York Entomological Society*, 94(2)] published in his honor on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Articles by his wife Elsie; brothers Paul, the Reverend Robert, and the Reverend William Froeschner; former student Paul Eneboe, M.D.; and numerous colleagues reveal the high regard friends and colleagues held for Dick.

The Richard C. Froeschner Memorial Fund has been established to help purchase literature on Heteroptera at the Smithsonian Institution. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Department of Systematic Biology, Division of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, 10th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012.

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LIST OF DESCRIBED TAXA AUCHENORRHYNCHA

MEMBRACIDAE

Telamona archboldi Froeschner, 1968

HETEROPTERA

ACANTHOSOMATIDAE

Hellica johni Froeschner, 2000

Hellica johnpolhemi Froeschner, 2000

Rolstonus Froeschner, 1997 (n. gen.)

Rolstonus rolstoni Froeschner, 1997

ARADIDAE

Brachyrhynchus pauper Kormilev & Froeschner, 1987

Calistopsis brodzinskyorum Froeschner, 1992 (amber fossil)

Calistopsis kormilevi Froeschner, 1992

Calistopsis nigrotuberculata Froeschner, 1992

Calistopsis tuberculata Froeschner, 1992

Mezira doesburgi Kormilev & Froeschner, 1987

Mezira vicina Kormilev & Froeschner, 1987

BLISSIDAE

Ischnodemus missouriensis Froeschner, 1944

COREIDAE

Ceraleptus denticulatus Froeschner, 1963

Ceraleptus probolus Froeschner, 1963

CYDNIDAE

Annestus basidentatus Froeschner, 1960

Annestus explanatus Froeschner, 1960

Annestus foveatus Froeschner, 1960

Annestus lenkoi Froeschner, 1975

Annestus pequimus Froeschner, 1975

Annestus radialis Froeschner, 1960

Annestus sexdentatus Froeschner, 1960 (a jr. syn. of
A. radialis Froeschner; syn. by Froeschner, 1981)

Annestus trinaculatus Froeschner, 1960

Blaena blothroposa Froeschner, 1966

Blaena cirra Froeschner, 1966

Blaena coarctata Froeschner, 1960

Blaena mediocarinata Froeschner, 1960

Blaena multirichia Froeschner, 1960

Blaena subsulcata Froeschner, 1960

Chilocoris incomptus Froeschner, 1967

Chilocoris neozelandicus Larivière and Froeschner,
1994

Chilocoris peterseni Froeschner, 1967

Cyrtomenus bergi Froeschner, 1960 (n. n.)

Dallasiellus alutaceus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus bacchinus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus dilatipes Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus fusus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus horvathi Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus interruptus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus laevis Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus leurus Froeschner, 1975

Dallasiellus longirostris Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus megalocephalus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus orchidiphilus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus ovalis Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus puncticeps Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus puncticoria Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus reflexus Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus triangularis Froeschner, 1960

Dallasiellus vanduzeei Froeschner, 1960

Dearcla capensis Froeschner, 1961

Dearcla natalensis Froeschner, 1961

Dearcla paucivillosa Froeschner, 1961

Ecarinoceps Froeschner, 1960 (n. subg. of *Dallasiellus*)

Ectinopus muticus Froeschner, 1960

Garsauriinae Froeschner, 1960 (n. subfam.)

Macroscyrtus aquilus Froeschner, 1967

Macroscyrtus noonadanae Froeschner, 1967

Melanaethus aereus Froeschner, 1960

Melanaethus externus Froeschner, 1960

Melanaethus mixtus Froeschner, 1960

Melanaethus planifrons Froeschner, 1960

Melanaethus wolcotti Froeschner and Maldonado,
1993

Microporus shiromai Froeschner, 1977

Onalips bisinuatus Froeschner, 1960

Onalips completus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus bisetosus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus impressus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus neogenus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus pluripunctatus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus punctilinea Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus punctinotum Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus rugonotum Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus quinquespinosus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus semibrunneus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus setosus Froeschner, 1960

Pangaeus tuberculipes Froeschner, 1960

Pseudopangaeus Froeschner, 1960 (n. subg. of *Dallasiellus*)

Rhytidoporus barberi Froeschner, 1960

Rhytidoporus obsoleteus Froeschner, 1960

Scaptocorinae Froeschner, 1960 (n. subfam.)

Scaptocoris divergens Froeschner, 1960

Scaptocoris grossa Froeschner, 1960

Sehirus cinctus texensis Froeschner, 1960 (n. subsp.)

Tominothus albicostus Froeschner, 1960

Tominothus brevisrostris Froeschner, 1960

Tominothus inconspicuus Froeschner, 1960

Tominothus unisetosus Froeschner, 1960

MIRIDAE

Atractotomus purshiae Froeschner, 1963

Hesperolabops mexica Froeschner, 1967

Larimocerus Froeschner, 1965 (n. gen.)

Larimocerus balius Froeschner, 1965

PENTATOMIDAE

Elsiella Froeschner, 1981 (n. gen.)

REDUVIIDAE

Phymata prolata Froeschner and Kormilev, 1990 (n. n.)

RHOPALIDAE

Jadera silbergliedi Froeschner, 1985

Nixithrea ashlocki Froeschner, 1989

TINIGIDAE

Acalypta emicata Froeschner, 1996

Acalypta laurae Froeschner, 1991

Acalypta ruhoffae Froeschner, 1976

Anommatoecoris zeteki Drake & Froeschner, 1962

Carldrakeana Froeschner, 1968 (n. gen.)

Carvalhotingis Froeschner, 1996 (n. gen.)

Corythaica darwiniana Drake and Froeschner, 1967

Corythaica wolfiana Drake and Froeschner, 1967

Corythucha melissae Froeschner and Miller, 2002

Distocader Froeschner, 1968 (n. gen.)

Etesinalda Froeschner, 1996 (n. gen.)

Etesinalda laticosta Froeschner, 1996

Exulmus Froeschner, 1996 (n. gen.)

Gargaphia sanchezi Froeschner, 1972

Leptodictya archboldi Froeschner, 1968

- Leptodictya fuscipes* Froeschner, 1989
Leptopharsa bredini Froeschner, 1968
Leptopharsa gibbicarina Froeschner, 1976
Leptopharsa madrigali Froeschner, 1989
Leptopharsa reflexa Froeschner, 1989
Minitingis elsaе Froeschner, 1968
Phatomma biordinatum Froeschner, 1976
Phatomma cecmaea Drake and Froeschner, 1967
Plescobyrsa nigribasis Froeschner, 1991
Sinalda haplotaxis Froeschner, 1969
Stragulatotingis Froeschner, 1969 (n. gen.)
Stragulatotingis englemani Froeschner, 1991
Teleonemia harleyi Froeschner, 1970

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1941

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